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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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II. Implementation of the recommendations by Member States

A. Replies received from Member States

Turkmenistan

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As a permanently neutral State, Turkmenistan is committed to the idea of building a reliable global security architecture and fostering a political and psychological environment conducive to promoting a shared world view of relations between States based on the principle that military force will not be used to resolve problems or disputes.

In view of its commitment to disarmament and the reduction of weapons arsenals, particularly weapons of mass destruction and their proliferation, Turkmenistan is actively involved in these areas. Alongside the other States in the region, Turkmenistan has signed the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. In recent years, Turkmenistan has also acceded to a number of other international disarmament instruments and conventions, including those prohibiting the production, stockpiling, transport and acquisition of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as the technologies to manufacture new types of such weapons.

At the same time, the leadership of Turkmenistan recognizes that achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament also entails educating people in this field and providing them with knowledge and skills so that they, as Turkmen citizens, can make their contribution towards implementing specific non-proliferation and disarmament measures.

In this context, new technologies and access to Internet educational information resources afford an unprecedented opportunity for broad outreach. Here the highly authoritative United Nations, which can provide the public with both academic and educational materials on this issue, has a crucially important role to play.

For its part, Turkmenistan continues to uphold its obligations through ongoing outreach activities at different levels aimed at promoting positive developments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The national press gave broad coverage to the establishment of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. At the State level, outreach activities were conducted to point out the conceptual importance of this event for the region and the entire world.

Furthermore, Turkmenistan is working resolutely to make its contribution to the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation education by consolidating international efforts to counter current threats and challenges through its participation in authoritative international organizations, including the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and through the use of a variety of modalities at the national and international levels.

The International Conference on Disarmament in Central Asia and the Caspian Basin was held on 24 June 2010 in Ashgabat. It will be recalled that the initiative of convening this forum was taken by the President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov, at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly held in New York in September 2009. The main item on the agenda of the conference was the further development of a compelling dialogue for the purpose of strengthening peace and stability in the region. The high-level exchange of views from this regional platform has generated a powerful impetus for disarmament research and education.

A number of important disarmament-related conferences and workshops have also been held recently in Turkmenistan, including a successful national workshop on aspects of the criminal legislation of Turkmenistan for countering nuclear, chemical and biological terrorism. During this workshop, participants drew up specific proposals to improve national legislation and set out the steps for further cooperation in this key area.

In close cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, a special workshop was held in Ashgabat on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and on international legal cooperation to combat biological, chemical and nuclear terrorism.

During the workshop, participants had an opportunity to share knowledge and experience with respect to preventing the proliferation of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, combating international terrorism and developing practical recommendations to promote regional cooperation for the benefit of all.

National courses on nuclear security were held in Turkmenistan in cooperation with the Department of Safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This training focused in particular on the State system of accounting for and control of nuclear materials.

In addition, officials from relevant agencies are sent abroad to participate in disarmament courses and workshops. The knowledge and foreign experience acquired is then studied and implemented.

All of the activities in this sensitive field are reported on and explained in the national press and via radio and television broadcasts.